



Indiana Office Community and Rural Affairs
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Lt. Governor Skillman Awards Almost \$3 Million in Rural Economic Development Projects

Today Lt. Governor Becky Skillman announced \$2.7 million in funding for 23 rural economic development projects, focusing on workforce development and rural entrepreneurship. The Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) created the Rural Capacity Grants (RCG) to fulfill the priorities in the Rural Indiana Strategy for Excellence (RISE 2020).

“Ensuring that all communities have the opportunity for economic prosperity is a top goal of this Administration,” said Lt. Gov. Skillman, who also serves as Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. “This goal includes our smaller cities and towns. By creating the Rural Capacity Grants, we will provide our rural communities another tool to help shape their economic vision.”

These grants will help promising rural entrepreneurs find mentoring, training and resources. OCRA will ensure that entrepreneurs know where to turn for funding, business plan development, marketing, and information needed to build or expand a successful business.

Below is the list of the Rural Entrepreneurial Support grantees:

	Applicant	Grant Request	County	Number of Counties Project Serves
•	Ohio County Convention Tourism and Visitors Commission	\$150,000	Ohio	1
•	Economic Development Group of Wabash County, Inc.	\$100,000	Wabash	3
•	Huntington County United Economic Development Corp	\$150,000	Huntington	5
•	Greater Seymour Chamber of Commerce	\$82,910	Jackson	1
•	Columbus Enterprise Development Corporation (CEDC)	\$106,000	Bartholomew	3

•	Southern Indiana Minority Enterprise Initiative, Inc.	\$100,000	Clark	6
•	Eastern Indiana Regional Workforce Board	\$128,750	Delaware	9
•	Hoosier Heartland Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc.	\$114,849	Marion	26
•	Main Street Richmond-Wayne County, Inc.	\$146,000	Wayne	1
•	Clinton County Chamber of Commerce	\$150,000	Clinton	1
•	Grant County Economic Growth Council	\$150,000	Grant	1

The goal of the Workforce and Educational Development grants is to bring Hoosiers' skills up to globally competitive levels by creating the opportunity for each worker to move at least one step up the talent scale. Those steps range from increasing literacy to developing strategic skills.

Below is the list of Workforce and Educational Development grantees:

	Applicant	Grant Request	County	Number of Counties Project Serves
•	Health Care Foundation of Kosciusko County, Inc.	\$149,970	Kosciusko	16
•	Pulaski Alliance for Community Education	\$10,200	Pulaski	5
•	Putnam County Community Foundation	\$75,303	Putnam	1
•	Daviess County Economic Development Foundation - Workforce	\$150,000	Daviess	6
•	Shelby County Life Long Learning, Inc.	\$146,480	Shelby	1
•	Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce Foundation	\$85,380	Monroe	1
•	Northwest Indiana Workforce Board/NWIWB	\$54,855	Porter	7
•	Warren County Local Economic Development Organization	\$150,000	Warren	3
•	Knox County Development Corporation	\$150,000	Knox	8
•	City of North Vernon	\$138,285	Jennings	1
•	Learning Generation Initiative	\$74,065	LaGrange	2

- **Southwest Indiana Network for Education**

\$145,968

Gibson

8

An awards ceremony will be held on Wednesday, January 24 at 9:30 a.m. at the Statehouse in Indianapolis to recognize each community.

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The Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs was created in 2005, and works with local, state, and national partners in providing resources and technical assistance to help rural communities shape their economic development visions. The priorities of OCRA are outlined in *Breaking the Boundaries*, and formed from the Rural Indiana Strategy for Excellence: A 2020 Vision for Indiana's Countryside. For additional information on OCRA and its programs visit www.in.gov/ocra.